



YC Fox questioned if the earth day activities included interactive activities for youth. PRD Gervais to provide contact information for the public works staff in charge of the event.

#### **IV. AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

None.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **a. Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission to Explore Alternatives for the Future of the Barrett Community Center**

PRD Gervais noted that a strategy for the future of Barrett Community Center is an item on the City Council priority list. He reviewed the Commission discussion of this item from previous meetings and noted a group from the community had also met to discuss Barrett. Staff has a short term strategy and is making some improvements to beautify the site. The goal of an Ad Hoc Committee is to explore alternatives and find out what the community wants for the site in the long term and make recommendations.

An Ad-Hoc Committee would meet and do research to reach consensus on recommendations. The Committee could consider bringing others in to assist the Committee. The goal would be to complete this task in one year. Staff recommended that an Ad-Hoc Committee be created. PRD Gervais added that C Runyan expressed interest in serving on the Ad-Hoc Committee.

PRD Gervais answered questions from the Commission.

C Sullivan noted that the community surveys have shown that there is interest in Barrett but that there is little financial support from the community. The cost for a new community center would be too high but that park improvements would be less costly and a lot could be done to improve the site. He would like the Ad-Hoc Committee to focus on improving the outdoor facilities in the park.

C Michaels suggested a phased approach be considered. First establish the short term goals and later look at a longer term vision.

C Bortoli said he liked the idea of having short term goals but also creating a vision for Barrett Community Center should funding become available in the future. He noted it is important that the community understand that funds are not currently available for the long term plans.

C Wong agreed with C Bortoli that short term goals could be completed and was also in favor of setting ground work for long term plans for what the community wants at Barrett.

C Wright agreed with making the grounds more operable now but a long term vision for Barrett is needed. She would like the Ad-Hoc Committee to explore community partners and a business model. She noted the wellness field has potential funding opportunities.

C Wong suggested making improvements to the field at Barrett.

PRD Gervais noted the goal is get a process with the community to come up with recommendations for Barrett improvements whether they are short term or long term goals.

***C Wong moved, seconded by C Michaels, to form an Ad-Hoc Committee for Barrett.***

Vote 6-0 in favor.

Commissioners Michaels, Wong, Sullivan and Runyan volunteered to serve on the Ad-Hoc Committee. The Ad-Hoc Committee will determine later if they would like to add community members in the Committee. Meetings will be held on-site at the Barrett Community Center. C Wright requested that meeting minutes be prepared.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Commission Reorganization Including Selection of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Tree Board Members, Liaison and Park Assignments**

PRD Gervais requested that the Commission select a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson, two members volunteer to serve on the Tree Board, and determine the Liaison and Park assignments.

**C Sullivan nominated C Wright for Chair; C Wong seconded.** There were no other nominations. **Vote 6-0 in favor.**

**C Sullivan nominated C Wong for Vice Chair; seconded by C Wright. C Wong nominated C Sullivan for Vice Chair; seconded by C Bortoli.**

**Vote: 4 votes for C Wong; 2 votes for C Sullivan**

C Bortoli volunteered to serve on the Tree Board. This will be brought back to the next meeting to fill the other seat.

The Commission Liaison and Park Assignments were assigned as follows:

| <u>Liaison</u>            | <u>Commissioner</u> | <u>Backup</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| City Council              | Wong                | Michaels      |
| Green Advisory Committee  | Wright              |               |
| Planning Commission       | Sullivan            |               |
| School District           | Runyan              | Bortoli       |
| Senior Advisory Committee | Bortoli             |               |
| Sports Advisory Committee | Bortoli             | Runyan        |

| <u>Park Assignments</u>  | <u>Commissioner</u>               |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alexander Park           | Wong                              |
| Barrett Community Center | Sullivan, Wong, Michaels & Runyan |
| Belameda (Library) Park  | Wright                            |

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Central Field                  | Wright           |
| Cipriani Park / Dog Park       | Michaels         |
| College View Park              | <i>vacant</i>    |
| Davey Glen Park                | Wright           |
| Fox Field                      | Bortoli & Runyan |
| Hallmark Park                  | Bortoli & Runyan |
| Hastings Tot Lot               | Michaels         |
| McDougal Park                  | Wong             |
| Nesbit Field                   | Wong             |
| O'Donnell Park                 | Wong             |
| Ralston Field                  | Bortoli          |
| Sports Complex & Bike Bridge   | Bortoli          |
| Ralston Ranch                  | Bortoli & Runyan |
| Semeria Park                   | Sullivan & Block |
| Twin Pines Park                | Michaels & Fox   |
| Wakefield                      | Runyan & Block   |
| Water Dog Lake & Hidden Valley | Block & Runyan   |
| Wharton Park                   | Wright           |

**b. Consideration of a Proposal to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Community Garden at O'Donnell Park**

PRD Gervais reported that staff received a request from residents requesting a community garden at O'Donnell Park. He displayed photos of O'Donnell Park explaining its location and showing three possible sites for a community garden. Staff analyzed this proposal and found that there are drawbacks to installing a community garden at O'Donnell Park. Reasons include lack of space, fencing would be visually unappealing, maintaining the garden is a burden on the city, the cost is not currently budgeted and the Department has a long list of projects that need to be completed.

PRD Gervais came up with some alternatives to a community garden. He proposed and staff recommended tree plantings with an evergreen species such as citrus trees. Another alternative would be to try a temporary community garden to test the site.

Staff responded to Commission questions:

- There are 12 people on the waiting list for the community garden at Barrett.
- Barrett is the only community garden site.
- Eleven families have expressed interest in having a community garden plot at O'Donnell.
- Alternatives had not been discussed with the neighborhood.
- Parks staff clear out 2-3 plots each year.
- Currently there is no Volunteer Coordinator to oversee the community garden at Barrett.
- Staff will check on how long temporary gardens last.
- Plot conditions are checked prior to processing annual payments for the community garden plots.
- There may be individuals in the O'Donnell Park neighborhood that would take on the role of Coordinator.

- Fruit trees would be maintained by parks staff or this could be done by the community.

Mike Fabel, member of Homeview Association, stated there are 10-12 individuals that remain interested in a community garden. He understands that cost could be prohibitive. With the alternatives he would prefer a combination of the fruit trees and the temporary garden. He expressed an understanding of the need to police the area and said they are willing to do this.

Gloria Purcell, explained she was one of the original committee members that wanted extra space to garden. She said that O'Donnell Park is under-landscaped and suggested the park could be upgraded in general. She explained they would like to build community with a garden and could donate extra food to Second Harvest Food Bank. Originally, they were just asking for permission to do this themselves and did not expect the City to complete and monitor it.

James Randolph noted their group will be disappointed if the community garden does not happen. He said when they contacted the City they were not aware that there were already community garden rules set up and he noted the city should not have to maintain the garden but the community should take care of it. He stated there would be enough space if utilized properly. He spoke in favor of fruit trees and noted Area One is bare and a good site for a small flower garden. He also would like children to be involved in the garden. He added fencing is not necessary and requested that this idea not be abandoned.

C Michaels questioned if there was some gardening that would not require fencing such as planting flowers instead of edible items. PRD Gervais said staff could meet with the group and try to come up with a plan that did not need fencing.

Responding to C Michael's question, PRD Gervais explained the main fixed cost would be installing a hose bib and this would be doable.

C Michaels commented that this topic could have further discussion to determine possibilities that would meet the neighborhood's needs.

C Sullivan stated he liked that the community is stepping forward to make use of this area. He spoke in favor of some aspect of a community garden.

C Wong agreed that there is value to having some type of community garden. He suggested a hybrid plan and planting a small grove of fruit trees and a small temporary community garden to see how it is maintained. He noted fencing would be needed if vegetables were grown in the garden.

C Bortoli stated he liked the idea of giving it a try and the hybrid idea. He agreed a fence would be a necessity and suggested starting out with a chain link that could be upgraded later if funds are raised. He questioned if more than one of the areas could be used for garden plots. PRD Gervais explained he does not recommend plots as a chain link fence would be obtrusive and block off the site visually. He said there may be room for the hybrid suggestion and was in favor of meeting with the community to see what could be done.

YC Fox expressed support for trying temporary gardens in areas one and two but agreed fencing would be a problem. She noted area 3 has a portion of fence but was not sure if that would keep animals out of it.

C Wright stated she called the Director of the California Native Garden Foundation and their organization runs a group called ELSEE (Environmental Lab for Sustainability and Ecological Education) and they have teaching gardens for schools in San Jose. They want to have teaching gardens in different areas including the peninsula. C Wright said she could invite this person to provide guidance. They may also be able to provide internships with college students to assist the community. In addition, there may be business partners that could help offset costs.

PRD Gervais said he would set up a meeting at the site with the community, parks staff and Commissioners Wright, Bortoli and Wong.

## **VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **A. Questions and Comments**

PRD Gervais reported the following:

- The Egg Adventure Hunt went was successful with approximately 200 children participating.
- There will be a summary of the survey completed and there will be a press release as well.
- The Senior Center Improvement Project will be on the City Council April 9 agenda.
- Staff is working on the budget for the next Fiscal Year starting on July 1. PRD Gervais offered to provide a budget presentation to the Commission if they were interested.
- Public Works is applying for a grant to add storm water features to the Davey Glen park site which would help fund the project. This would provide water storage on site through a series of pipes. The pipes would hold water underground which would slowly dissipate into the soil
- Recreation programs have increased at Barrett Community Center on Wednesdays afternoons. Recreation Specialist Matt Nestor has done a good job of providing equipment to youth and increasing participation at the site.
- Parks crew is working on improving the courtyard at Barrett.
- NDNU students came out to Water Dog Lake and removed invasive plant species on their Call to Action Day.
- Progress continues on the Lake Loop Trail at Water Dog Lake.

In response to C Wright's question PRD Gervais said the bench at Patricia Wharton Park will be replaced. He will check into a missing bus stop sign.

C Wong asked about the progress on the Sport Complex artificial turf project. PRD Gervais stated that will be on either the May or June agenda. The next step is to determine where the turf ends so that the design can be finished up.

C Michaels stated it would be helpful to get a budget presentation.

**B. Future Agenda Items**

Belmont Sports Complex Turf Project  
Facility Use Policy  
Manor House  
Budget  
Twin Pines Circulation Pattern  
Vacant Youth Commission Seat

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

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Jonathan Gervais  
Parks & Recreation Director